

from Dorothy Malmquist Mar 91

Dear Helen,

Thank you for sending Jack's letter to me. I enjoyed it even though I knew most of the information except about their daughter's marriage. I know the farm we lived only about a mile away. I remember the old house - it seemed very large to me with a screened porch on two sides. I remember Aunt Rilla - Jack's grandmother - in a rocking chair in the sitting room and Uncle Dave doing chores around the barns & yard. There was a maple grove between the house & the road - some of it is still there - and in earlier years they tapped the trees and made their own maple syrup. When my brother, Jim was here last fall, I asked him if the old house was still there and he thought it was. Jack & Max have built a new house closer to the road which mostly hides the old house. When we were kids growing up my brothers, Jim & Vinnie, were good friends with Jack - still are - & Jim worked summers on the farm with them. My sister, Polly, was friends with Max and both <sup>Jack & Max</sup> were often in our home.

I suppose I was lucky (or fortunate) to grow up close to quite a few of the Ervin relatives. Mom didn't get to know them till she was at least 21 or 22 and really appreciated "family." I think this letter will be a rambling one - I don't know what you'd like to know and I have so many memories.

You know, I'm sure, that after our grandfather, Vinton, was killed in the factory in Bridgeport, Grandma came back to Minnesota to stay with her parents, Carl & Carolina Sandberg in St. Peter. That's where your dad grew up but after Aunt Ruth was born - a month after Vinton died - Grandma left my mother with Vinton's parents - James & Emily

② Erwin. Grandma felt that James & Emily really wanted to have one of the children - Victor was an only child and she was taking her family home to live with her parents. There were there wasn't any A. F. D. C., pensions, or any financial help - the workers at the factory took up a collection to help pay Grandma's way back to Minn. Mom stayed with her grandparents till Emily died. Mom was 21 - and then came to Minn. bringing James with her & <sup>James & Emily</sup> they had lived in Minn. before and some of his relatives lived in Masses. Uncle Dave was a younger brother and a sister, Catherine (Carrie) lived a short distance from us. I also remember Aunt Carrie but not her husband Isaac Ballard. There aren't any of the Ballards left around Masses but I visited with Irma - a grand daughter of Carrie - whenever I went to Masses. She died about a year ago. She had a lot of Erwin history and she and Sue, my daughter, had a great time comparing notes. Irma had one letter from Emily to Carrie telling of the hardships of the Civil war wounded - James was wounded and in a makeshift hospital - short of nurses, doctors, and everything and she came, stayed with a family there and spent her days caring for him till he was able to go home. I found it very interesting. Uncle Dave was one of the oldest surviving Civil war veterans and always rode in the Memorial Day parade - a big event in our town. He sat in a chair in the back of a truck - no convertibles then - and had a place on the platform during the Memorial Day speeches, etc. Jack is right about the Erwins in the Masses Cemetery. The younger ones are scattered through the Cemetery but in the old Erwin plot there are - Pruden Allen & wife Jane; James; David and Ariella, <sup>their</sup> son Ray, daughter Ruth & son Sidney. Amanda - wife of a brother of James & David - William A. - and a Lewis Erwin who died in 1826 - ~~there is~~ and another brother Arthur who died in 1864. The big monument is quite weather worn and we had to make pencil drawings of some of the names.

③ The Roy <sup>back</sup> referred to was killed in a collision with a train when his horse and buggy collided with a train on a dark, rainy night. I also grew up near The Ruby he mentioned as children of David. Her daughters Ruth & Ruby were good friends. Sue & Ruth also compared notes. I have the newspaper clippings of Vinton's accident & death and could make copies if you would like.

Uncle Carl lived for quite a few years in Nasasa. He told me once that when he was about 10 years old he was brought for a bag of candy. Grandma Erwin's sister lived on a farm near the Sandbergs and they could use help so her husband offered Uncle Carl a bag of candy if he would come with him. He worked there for several years. I don't know a lot about his growing up years but when he was a young man, he worked as a street car conductor in Minneapolis where he met and married Hilda <sup>Larson</sup> ~~Erwin~~ (1916). She had a son, Lloyd, who went by the name Erwin till he went into the service, when he had to use his legal name, Larson, as Uncle Carl never legally adopted him. He married a lady named Gertrude - I don't know the last name - she had some children but I don't know who they were. He died in 1960. Aunt Hilda was born in 1889 & died in 1959. Uncle Carl was born in 1890 & died in 1962. Uncle Carl worked on farms around St. Peter for a while, worked in the railroad roundhouse in Nasasa, for a road construction company where he was injured in a dynamite explosion - farmed for a while & then went out to Portland during W. W. II where he worked in a defense plant. At the time, Elmer was working in Seattle and when Uncle Carl sent for Aunt Hilda to come out, she wanted me to go with her as I was going to Seattle, but she was driving an old rattletap van with very poor tires and I was afraid of being stranded with my two little girls & no money so I took the train instead. She drove out alone. They had a medium sized short haired dog called "Cry" who was part of the family. Uncle Carl would play the mouth organ & "Cry dog" would sing. They



④ also had a one horse buggy pulled by a horse called 'Queenie' which they drove long after most folks - except mine - had a car. They spent most holidays with us and Aunt Hilda was great for baking cakes with 1 1/2 inch frosting for us kids. We were allowed as much as we wanted. Mom believed too much sweet stuff wasn't good for us so her cakes were always a great treat.

When you come to my family, there are lots of us. at our Matz family reunions. Just my brothers and sisters & their families, we are usually around 100 and there are always some that <sup>can't</sup> come. I'll give you my families names and if you want their descendants, let me know.

Dorothy - married Elmer Malmquist - I was born in 1917  
Theodore - (Dad) - 1919 - married Dorothy Hanson, divorced & married Alice Beshman - six children with 1<sup>st</sup> wife.

Marian - 1921 - married Donald Rocco - 5 children

Vinton - 1923 - married Doris Felske (died 1976) married Myrtle Larson - a widow. Vince had 4 children of 1<sup>st</sup> wife

James - 1925 - married Joan Felske - sister of Vince's wife - Jim has 3 children

Polly - 1926 - married Dean Fleming - divorced - married Aub Streitz. Polly has 4 children of 1<sup>st</sup> marriage

John - 1931 - married Agnes Peterson. They have 2 children.

I have dates for most of the people I've mentioned and if you want them, I can give them to you. I don't know how detailed a search your Jim is doing but Sue wanted all she could find of all relatives she could find and was very interested in all the background information she could find. I have so many memories of even more of the & even relatives that lived around Nasara, of David's children, I knew Stanley, Eugene, Rolland & Ruby and their children though I've lost track of quite a few of them. Hope this rambling letter doesn't bore you too much & let me know if there is any thing I can help you with. Love, Dorothy.